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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/663,434 | BECKMANN ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Thuy V. Tran | 2821 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 09/16/2003 & Interview held on 09/27/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-27.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 16 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).


* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date <u>09162003</u> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date <u>092704</u>. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
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 Thuy V. Tran
 Examiner
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DETAILED ACTION

This is a response to the Applicants' filing on September 16th, 2003 and the telephone interview held on September 27th, 2004. In virtue of this filing and this telephone interview, claims 1-27 are currently presented in the instant application.

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. James R. Crawford on September 27th, 2004. The amendment includes:

For the title:

Change the original title to --PLASMA SOURCE WITH RELIABLE IGNITION--;

In the Abstract:

Line 1, delete "means of";

In the claims:

Claim 1, line 4, delete "can"; and change "flow" to --flows--;

Claim 10, line 1, change "A" to --The--;

Claim 10, line 2, delete "the" (first occurrence);

Claim 11, line 1, change "A" to --The--;

Claim 11, line 2, delete "the" (first occurrence);

Claim 12, line 1, change "A" to --The--;

Claim 12, line 2, delete "the" (first occurrence);

Claim 20, lines 1-2, delete "assumes the function of the plate and";

Claim 21, lines 1-2, delete "assumes the function of the plate and";

Claim 24, line 1, change "the" (first occurrence) to --a--;

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Claim 24, line 2, change "the" (first occurrence) to --a--;

Claim 25, line 2, change "the" (second occurrence) to --a--;

Claim 26, line 1, change "0,1" to --0.1--;

Claim 27, line 1, change "the" (second occurrence) to --a--; and

Claim 27, line 2, change "the" (first occurrence) to --a--; and delete "the" (second occurrence).

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-27 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest a plasma source comprising a plate at a spacing from a wall of the chamber, with this plate comprising throughbores through which gas flows into a plasma volume, whereby this plate forms with the wall of the chamber a closed volume and a gas inlet is provided in this wall; wherein the plate is connected with the wall via an electric insulation and that an electric voltage source is provided between the plate and the wall, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as called for in independent claim 1 (claims 2-27 are allowed since they are dependent on claim 1).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Citation of relevant prior art

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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Prior art Lai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,755,150) discloses a multi-core transformer plasma source.

Prior art Hanawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,551,446) discloses a plasma reactor for processing a workpiece.

Prior art Hanawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,453,842) discloses a plasma chamber for processing a substrate.

Prior art Jurgensen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,261,406) discloses a confinement device.

Prior art Maeno et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,060,836) discloses a plasma generating apparatus.

Prior art Asmussen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,311,103) discloses an apparatus for the coating material.

Prior art Tanaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,970,435) discloses a plasma processing apparatus.

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy V. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-1828. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00 AM -5:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thuy V. Tran
Examiner
Art Unit 2821

09/27/2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thuy V. Tran', is written over the printed name and title.